Γ

SOURCE

La Libre Belgique

	CLASS	NEICHION RESTRICTED	OR OFFICIAL USE ONLY	STAT
	IPV	ENTRAL SECURITY THEORY	NEI OIT	
h	FOREIGN	DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROA	DCASTS CD NO.	
COUNTRY	Poland			
SUBJECT	Economic - Industry, plant operation DATE OF INFORMATION 1953			
HOW	Sociological	- Labor, wages, working con-	litions	19
PUBLISHED	Daily newspape		DATE DIST. /4 Dec 19	953
WHERE PUBLISHED	Brussels	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AC		
DATE		: Cancelled	NO. OF PAGES 2	i i
PUBLISHED	15 Sep 1953	RV an		
ANGUAGE	French	BY About 17 British	SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.	
THES DOCUMENT CONTA	INS INFORMATION AFFECTING TO			STAT
OF THE UNITED STATE IND 784, OF THE U.S	S. WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITL			
ATION OF ITS CONTE	ITS TO OR BECEIPT BY AN UNAU	THIS	IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION	*

POOR WORKING CONDITIONS IN POLISH HEAVY INDUSTRY

Comment and Summary: The report summarized below appeared on 15 September 1953 in the Brussels conservative daily newspaper La Libre Belgique, which usually reflects official Belgian opinion. It is said to be the text of a short talk broadcast over Radio Free Europe by an unidentified worker who escaped from Poland and who used to work in the assembly shops of the R. Cegielski plants (now called Zaklady imenia Stalina) in Poznan. The newspaper, which cites an unnamed special correspondent as its source, says that these plants were well known before World War II as important producers of locomotives, farm and factory machinery, and reilroad care. It adds that the conditions in the Cegielski plants described by the escapee apply as well to all other nationalized heavy-industry enterprises in Poland.

What I have to say will be said in the name of the 9,000 workers at the Cegielski plants at Poznan, most of whom think as I do.

Our factory produces only 40 percent of its quota. Production is low because the workers know that they are working not for their country but for the Soviets.

Of 26 locomotives produced monthly in the Cegielski plant, not one stays in Poland. Most of them are sent immediately to the Malkinia railroad station, from which Soviet railroad workers take them to the USSR. The workers in the plant know that other locomotives are sent to China, Hungary, and Rumania, and that these countries pay the USSR, not Poland, for them. The Polish railroads use prewar Polish or German locomotives and, at best, a small number of new engines made at the Opcle factory [not further identified].

	·	CLASSIFICATION	RESTRIEPED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
STATE	NAVY	NSRB	DISTRIBUTION
ARMY	AIR	FBI	
			

Γ

STAT

The director of our plant is a Soviet named Barchuk, who speaks little Polish. In 1948, he came from the USSR, where, it seems, he had been a captain in the RKVD. His two assistants, Shevchuk and Kosov, are also Soviet. The planning bureau is headed by a Soviet engineer named Bychuk, who speaks almost no Polish. His salary of 15,000 zlotys a month is supplemented with bonuses, which increase his earnings to almost 20,000 zlotys a month. He has a house in town and another in the country, and two automobiles. Each of the two assistant directors earns 8,000 zlotys a month in addition to bonuses which bring the total up to about 12,000 zlotys. In addition, a sum equal to the pay of the director of a Soviet factory is credited to each in a special bank account in the USSR.

As a mechanic, I received 30 zlotys a day, or 700 to 800 zlotys a month. An unskilled worker does not receive more than 500 to 600 zlotys monthly.

The 8-hour day disappeared long ago. The workday often lasts 11 or 12 hours, including compulsory overtime for political purposes having nothing to do with the workers. Party members are obliged to work longer hours than nonparty members.

Supposedly, there are prizes for exceeding the production quotas. But the prizes are given only to party members, most of whom never exceed any quota. They are activists employed by the management to "stimulate the enthusiasm" of the workers and "encourage their interest in socialist competition." If the activists wives work, the couple earns several thousand zlotys a month. An ordinary worker is compelled to participate in "contests" and to perform many "additional voluntary tasks." The factory's enterprise committee calls a meeting of the workers and announces that the X or Y factory in the same branch of industry produces more than the Cegielski plant. At the same time, the workers at X or Y factory are told that the Cegielski plant is cutproducing their respective plants. Several activists then insist that the production quotas must be raised. Other workers become angry but can say nothing. They know that, if they protest, they will be punished and sent to a forced-labor camp. Thus, the new quotas are "unanimously approved." The first time a worker arrives at the plant 15 minutes late, he is reprimanded severely. The second time, he is punished by being transferred to a harder or poorer-paying job, or sent to a labor camp.

The enterprise committee is supposed to represent the workers and to defend their rights. Elections to this committee are supposed to take place every June. However, the factory planning committee nominates the candidates in advance. As a matter of form, an employee asks the workers for their nominations, but these names never appear on the list of candidates.

The Cegielski plant employs more than 1,000 women. There is a nursery at the plant for their children, but the women hesitate to entrust their children to the care of the attendants. In January 1953, two children fell from their beds and died soon afterward. Their mothers received 300 zlotys as compensation. The women are also displeased because the food is poor and because crosses and images of saints have been removed from the rooms.

The Polish workers do not even have recourse to the weapon of all free workers, the strike. I know of several cases similar to that of the farm workers of Swierkowka, near Poznan, who stopped work because they had received no salary for 4 months. The farm director called the UB (Uraad Bezpieczenstwa, Security Police), which arrested 15 workers and sent them to an unknown destination.

- E N D -

STAT